

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DODE-00 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 /109 W
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R 271810Z MAR 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4840
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS 3828

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 1674

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
SUBJ: PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF APRIL 4 NATO ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES

REF: USNATO 1626

1. IN NAC MAR 27, SEVERAL PERMREPS SUGGESTED EXPANDED PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF THE APRIL 4 CEREMONIES MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES SUGGESTED THAT-IN ORDER TO COUNTER POSSIBLE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT MODESTY OF MILITARY CEREMONIES AT NATO HEAD-QUARTERS (REFTEL)-NATO PRESS SERVICE SHOULD ISSUE COMPENDIUM OF STATEMENTS AND OTHER EVENTS SCHEDULED TO MARK THE ANNIVERSARY IN NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES.

2. LUNS SAID THAT HE WAS PRESENTLY AWARE OF ONLY A FEW NATIONAL CEREMONIES AND MENTIONED THE EXCELLENT COMMEMORATION RECENTLY HELD ON MAR 25 IN BONN. LUNS REMINDED THAT HE WOULD BE MAKING A STATEMENT AT THE APRIL 4 CEREMONIES AND SAID THAT HE MIGHT STRESS FACT THAT CEREMONIES AT NATO HQ WERE BUT ONE OF MANY BEING HELD IN ALLIED COUNTRIES AND WERE JUST THE PRECURSOR OF LARGER EVENTS COMING LATER TO MARK THE ALLIANCE'S FIRST QUARTER-CENTURY.

3. NETHERLANDS PERMREP HARTOGH NOTED THAT GON WAS PLANNING AN APRIL 4 CEREMONY IN THE HALL OF KNIGHTS IN THE HAGUE WITH ADDRESSES BY DUTCH FONMIN AND FORMER PERMREP SPIERENBURG. NATO CONFIDENTIAL

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ANNIVERSARY WOULD ALSO BE THE SUBJECT OF SPECIAL TV PROGRAMMING AND TREATMENT IN DUTCH SCHOOLS. GON ALSO PLANNED TO ISSUE A COMMEMORATIVE STAMP.

4. RUMSFELD (U.S.) SUPPORTED MENZIES' PROPOSAL THAT NATO INTERNATIONAL STAFF COMPILE A LIST OF EVENTS, STATEMENTS, ETC., BEING STAGED BY NATO MEMBER COUNTRIES ON APRIL 4. MENZIES ADDED THAT LISTS OF NATIONAL STATEMENTS, ETC., SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE BY DELEGATIONS TO THE NATO INFORMATION SERVICE BEFORE APRIL 4 SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE PUBLICIZED IN CONNECTION WITH THE NATO CEREMONIES. HARTOGH NOTED THAT THE NATO INFORMATION COMMITTEE WAS MEETING MAR 29 TO DISCUSS THIS MATTER AND ASKED THE COMMITTEE TO PREPARE A PAPER LISTING FOR ALL WHAT EACH ALLY IS DOING.

5. RECOMMENDATION: GIVEN MODESTY OF CEREMONIES AT NATO HQ ON APRIL 4 AND CURRENT STATE OF UNCERTAINTY ENGENDERED BY THE RECENT CONSULTATION/DECLARATIONS DISCUSSION, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF WASHINGTON PLANNED SOME CLEARLY VISIBLE EVENT THAT WOULD MARK THE APRIL 4 ANNIVERSARY. THIS WOULD NOT ONLY SERVE TO MARK AN IMPORTANT EVENT, BUT GIVE ADDED IMPACT TO OUR ASSERTION THAT NATO AND US-EUROPEAN TIES REMAIN CORNERSTONE OF U.S. FOREIGN POLICY. A PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION OR STATEMENT-DELIVERED PERHAPS WHERE THE NATO TREATY WAS SIGNED IN WASHINGTON-WOULD BE IDEAL. STATEMENTS BY OTHER U.S. LEADERS-SECSTATE, SECDEF, MILITARY AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS-IN WASHINGTON OR ELSEWHERE WOULD ALSO BE USEFUL. SOME MAY ALREADY BE SCHEDULED OF WHICH USNATO IS NOW UNAWARE. IN ANY EVENT, MISSION WOULD LIKE TO HAVE AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE BEFORE APRIL 3 A LIST OF PLANNED OR PROPOSED U.S. EVENTS FOR APRIL 4 AND TEXTS OF KEY STATEMENTS TO BE MADE OR OTHERWISE ISSUED ON THAT OCCASION. AS SUGGESTED ABOVE, THESE COULD BE GIVEN FURTHER PLAY BY ISSUANCE IN BRUSSELS AT THE TIME OF APRIL 4 CEREMONIES AT NATO HQ. RUMSFELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO01674
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740381/abbrytzi.tel
Line Count: 85
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USNATO 1626 1. IN NAC MAR 27, SEVERAL PERMREPS SUGGESTED EXPANDED PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF THE APRIL 4 CEREMONIES MARKING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SIGNING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY. CANADIAN PERMREP MENZIES SUGGESTED THAT-IN ORDER TO COUNTER POSSIBLE PRESS SPECULATION ABOUT
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 01 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <01 APR 2002 by collinp0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PUBLIC AFFAIRS TREATMENT OF APRIL 4 NATO ANNIVERSARY CEREMONIES
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005